



Memorandum

To: Craig McLaughlin, SBOH
CC: Mary C. Selecky, DOH
From: Patty Hayes
Date: 7/5/01
Re: Activity information for SBOH

Per your request, I've listed the department's activities underway for development of legislation, legislative implementation or specific policy discussion. This is by no means an exhaustive list, nor does it include the program specific activities related to federal grants or initiatives, but does outline some of the major agency-wide work. I hope this helps the Board in their discussion and I am happy to clarify or supply additional information.

Legislation under development

The following four proposals have been approved for further development as possible agency request bills for the 2002 legislative session. In late August, after bill drafting, stakeholder contacts and fiscal impact analysis, the senior management team will again review the proposals. Those proposals approved will be forwarded to the Office of Financial Management for further review and approval by the Governor.

Adult Family Homes: Proposes repeal of chapter 18.48 RCW, regarding the registration of adult family home providers and registered managers. The repeal would eliminate duplication of regulation upon adult family homes, as the provisions of chapter 18.48 RCW regulate the same matters as the Department of Social and Health Services adult family home laws. Duplication occurs in three areas: registration requirements, the adult family home advisory committee, and disciplinary actions.

Board of Denture Technology Authority: The proposed legislation would clarify the current denturism statute, Chapter 18.30 RCW, in light of the 1998 court of appeals case that found certain 1995 amendments to the law to be invalid. The proposal would give licensing,

examination and rulemaking power to the Board of Denture Technology, give disciplinary authority to the Department of Health.

Uniform Protection Act for Health Care Facilities (UPA): This proposed bill would create a uniform statute for enforcement of licensing standards for health care facilities the Department of Health regulates. The UPA would produce more consistent enforcement tools for the Department, as well as a clearer understanding of requirements on the part of the licensed facilities. The proposed language would be comparable with the health professions model in the Uniform Disciplinary Act (UDA), and will treat all regulated facilities and services in the same manner.

Vital Records Issuing Fee Increase: This proposal would increase the fee for certified copies of birth and death certificates from \$13.00 to \$16.00; with \$2.00 going to the Department to support electronic death registration and vital records functions. The remaining \$1.00 would be allocated to the death investigations account governed by the Forensics Investigation Council.

Legislative implementation

I selected a few of these to highlight that may have interest to SBOH members.

Infant and child safety: Community and family health division will lead the implementation of HB 1365, infant and child products. The bill requires the department to develop information for parents and providers on recalled products such as cribs.

Dental care access: Health systems quality assurance division will lead the implementation of SB 6020. The bill creates an endorsement for dental hygienists and dental assistants to apply sealants and fluoride varnishes to low income, rural and at risk populations.

Electrology and tattooing: The department's policy office will lead the rule development for HB 1042. This bill requires rules to be established for the sterilization of needles used by electrologists and tattooists.

Policy issues

Hepatitis C: Maxine Hayes is coordinating a policy discussion around surveillance and impact of the rising incidence of Hepatitis C infection.

Comprehensive Cancer control planning project: Maxine Hayes is chairing a workgroup that is developing a comprehensive approach to cancer control.

Medication/medical errors: The department policy office is coordinating the agency activity relating to patient safety and reducing errors. This includes development of legislation and a "best practices group" with the Foundation for Health Care Quality.

Governor's water initiative, phase 2: Environmental health division is lead for public health issues on the Governor's water team.

HIV/AIDS study: Community and family health division is lead in reviewing the 1988 Omnibus AIDS statute. A workgroup is being formed with request for SBOH participation. The design of the review is mirrored to the language in SB 5679 that did not pass this session. The Governor requested the department move forward on the review.

PHIP: Next workplan is under development, including the continued work on public health standards.

Group B water systems: Environmental health division is developing the distribution plan for the recent money allocated toward group B systems. Discussions regarding group B regulation are scheduled to begin with SBOH member (Carl Osaki) and staff.

Partnership on judicious antibiotic use: Continuation of the public/private workplan to encourage the appropriate use of antibiotics.

Diabetes collaborative: Continuation of the public/private cooperative that has a focus on implementation of quality improvement in clinical management of diabetes.

Public health system development: There are a great number of initiatives that are ongoing. These include the development of online reporting systems for reportable conditions and bioterrorism preparedness.